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It seems a pity that publishers should not be more circumspect in duplicating excellent editions of the same work already in existence, unless the new form clearly has some additional advantage justifying the time and expense put upon it. A more rational policy in this respect would effect a great saving in many directions. The present edition of *El Capitán Veneno* is inferior to a preceding one which has latterly been published, and its appearance cannot, therefore, be said to fulfil any truly useful purpose. The editor's object seems to have been to reduce information to the briefest limits, a policy which in the present instance has involved many sacrifices in efficiency. For if a book is to discharge its mission worthily it should not leave to the devices of the busy — and peradventure ill-equipped — teacher that which properly comes within its own province.

VALERA'S *El Pájaro Verde*. Edited by G. G. BROWNELL. Cloth, 12mo. 28 pages of text, with notes and vocabulary. Price 45 cents. Ginn & Co.

THIS is a popular and pleasing fairy tale of a leading Spanish author, a text well adapted for early reading. The language is easy, the style simple, and the idioms not so numerous or unusual as to be disconcerting to the beginner. The present edition is a practicable one, with vocabulary and notes. The latter are sparing in quantity and quality, although perhaps all that the nature of the text absolutely calls for. Idioms receive, as a rule, free translation without explanation. We think this course a disadvantage, although there are some teachers who might deem such explanations wasted on beginners, or would leave them to the ingenuity of the teacher, who, presumably is competent to fill in the gaps. Unfortunately this last desideratum is not always attainable in a system of school assignments so frequently met with where teachers are often forced to make the most irrational or fantastical combinations of subjects committed to their charge.

A body of composition exercises is appended to the text, made up of twenty groups of English sentences paraphrased from Spanish originals scattered throughout the text. The usefulness of these exercises would have been greatly heightened had the choice of a given group been circumscribed to certain definitely stated pages or passages. As it is, the pupil is obliged to glean over a wide field in the hopes of picking up, here and there, the kernels he is looking for. Carried to excess the process is apt to be discouraging instead of having, as it should have, stimulating results.

The edition is in striking contrast to current usage in that the text is not preceded by a learned and erudite biographical-critical treatise on the author and his works. Such a treatise would be hardly in keeping with the literary proprieties to be observed toward a short fairy story. But we think that a few lines of information about the author and his work would have been welcome to both teacher and student. Even this is lacking.

LESAGE'S *Historia de Gil Blas de Santillana* (Padre Isla's version). Edited with notes and vocabulary by GEDDES and JOSSELYN. D. C. Heath & Co., pp. 244 (165 of text).

WE are glad to note the appearance of this celebrated work in a form convenient for school and college use. For the fact that the *Historia de Gil Blas* purports to be a Spanish translation from the French original of Lesage matters little in the practical estimate of Padre Isla's work. The subject-matter of Lesage's novel is far more